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FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department
United States of America

In the matter of the failure of
the Japanese to furnish proper
food, quarters, and medical care
to American prisoners of war at
Woosung, China, between 1
February 1942 and March 1943.

Perpetuation of testimony of
Sgt. Roger Dick Bamford, 1622
Avenue B, Kearney, Nebraska,
Serial No. 306927.

Taken at: Kearney, Nebraska
Date: 15 February 1946
In the presence of: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr
Reporter: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr
Questions by: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr

Q: State your name, rank, Marine Corps Serial Number and permanent home address.
A: I am Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt, Serial No. 306927. My home address is 1622 Avenue B, Kearney, Nebraska.

Q: State your citizenship and the date and place of your birth.
A: I am a citizen of the United States and was born at Elm Creek, Nebraska, on November 6, 1922.

Q: What education have you had?
A: I was graduated from highschool at Kearney, Nebraska.

Q: Did you have a civilian occupation?
A: No. I went from highschool to the Marine Corps.

Q: Where were you stationed? What were your military duties?
A: I was attached to an anti-aircraft unit stationed on Wake Island when the war between Japan and the United States broke out on 7 December 1941.

Q: Were you a prisoner of war?
A: Yes. I was captured at Wake Island on 23 December 1941. I was transferred soon to Woosung Prison Camp at Woosung, China where I was held until March 1943. I was then transferred to a prison camp at Kangwan, China where I was held from March 1943 until June 1945. We were then transferred to a prison camp at Lengtia, China, where we were held from 1 June to 1 July 1945. The last prison camp I was in was located at Hokodate, Hokaido, Japan where I was held from 1 July 1945 to about 15 August 1945 when I was released by American Forces. I was returned to the United States soon after being released.

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Q: Do you recall the food issued by the Japanese to the American prisoners of war at Woosung Prison Camp between 1 February 1942 and March 1943?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: State what you recall concerning the food issued to the American prisoners of war.

A: We were issued a small teacup full of cooked rice three times a day. Ordinarily we received a little watery turnip soup twice a day or some soup of a similar nature. We were never issued meat and we could get no other food. We received no Red Cross parcels at that camp.

Q: Do you recall the quarters in which prisoners were kept?

A: I do.

Q: State what you recall concerning the quarters.

A: We were sheltered in barns and slept on the ground. There were cracks in the walls of the barn through which cold air passed freely.

Q: Did you have stoves and fuel furnished in these quarters?

A: No, we did not.

Q: What sort of weather prevailed in this area during the winter months?

A: Temperatures got as low as fifteen and twenty degrees above zero and we had snowfalls. The weather was ordinarily damp. We were never able to be really warm. Two blankets were issued to each man as bedding.

Q: Were clothes issued to you?

A: The Japanese issued no clothing and some of the prisoners had no clothing at all when they arrived at Woosung because the Japanese had made them strip when they left Wake Island. Some had a pair of pants; others a shirt, but that clothing lasted only about three months.

Q: Did you have any facilities for bathing?

A: We washed ourselves in buckets but for the first three months I was at Woosung I did not have a bath. The Japanese furnished no soap. We never did wash our clothes because we felt they would fall apart if they were washed.

Q: Did the Japanese furnish medical care for the American prisoners?

A: The Japanese furnished no medical care and while we were at that camp approximately thirty or forty prisoners died due to malnutrition, beri-beri, and dysentery.

Q: Did you have a Doctor among the American prisoners?

A: Lt (j.g.) Kahn, USN, Ft Worth, Texas, was in this camp and did what he could for us.

Q: What sort of latrine facilities did you have?

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A: We had one latrine built to accommodate four men but there were approximately fifteen hundred men at the camp so that latrine was very inadequate for our needs. The Japanese furnished no disinfectants for keeping the latrine clean.

Q: Who was the Japanese Commander at Woosung Prison Camp?

A: The first Commanding Officer was a Col. Use but he died while we were there and was replaced by a Captain Indo.

Q: Who was the ranking American officer?

A: He was Colonel Ashurst, USMC. Other officers present were Major Brown, who had been stationed at Piping; Major Devereaux, who had been stationed at Wake Island and Commander Thison, a Doctor.

Q: Were protests lodged with the Japanese commander regarding conditions which you have described?

A: Yes, but the protests did no good.

Q: Do you remember the names of any of the Enlisted Men who were at this camp with you?

A: A Sergeant Marion L. Wyne of 4475 Saratoga Avenue, San Diego, California, and Sgt. Fred Beese, Nodale, Iowa were in this camp with me.

Q: Do you have anything further to add to the above?

A: No.

Q: Do you have any knowledge of other mistreatment of American prisoners of war by the Japanese?

A: Only what I have given you in sworn statement above.

/s/ Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt.
USMC

ROGER DICK BAMFORD, Sgt., USMC

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
(SS
COUNTY OF BUFFALO)

I, Roger Dick Bamford, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt. USMC
ROGER DICK BAMFORD, Sgt. USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of March 1946.

/s/ Irene Thauson
Co. Clerk, Buffalo Co.

CERTIFICATE

I, Charles H. Phares, Special Agent, SIC, 7SC, certify that Roger Dick Bamford personally appeared before me on 15 February 1946 and testified concerning War Crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Omaha, Nebraska
Mar. 5, 1946

/s/ Chas. H. Phares
CHAS H. PHARES, S/Agt, SIC, 7SC.

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一六二

問了十來戰事，停席，

答：春秋二十九年一歲和十六年十二月廿三日 宋子卿

丁酉元之夏，老圃天下宇宙安否，其游修禊以

客所へ移りて、一九四三年（昭和八年）三月迄御留中

6 1/2 1/2

商アカハ一九四三年(昭和十七年)二月一日カラ翌年三月迄

吳松復櫟枝眉所參軍人但謂日本人，無論

②金屬：銅、鐵、錫、鉛、金屬化力

答一百三回小亨十翼解二集一杯也以之夕通例一百三回少

シ水象「了心」カグラ、味噌汁カ同シ様ア模様、味噌

計才博貫二十二。因人餵對三無少其他，食慾尤博貫八之七。

于多。此，枚容朴十八林十室小包八世祖之子也。序云：

向浮城舞、妝容也。場有八人也。夕張也。乃與七色也。

16.1 答教父納屋子處居之地西千張弓步。納屋、壁二割

8004
8005

問 丙ノ傳所ハアリテ申新案、該備ハアリカニ
答 ト士、シテ該備ハアリテ申シテ

問 ノ地方客、氣候ハシテ申シテ

答 通度八十五度乃至一百度位子雪が降リシテ。氣候
八撮り勝ケテシ。寒ニ暖ケテ、得クコトハアリカニ。

一人它三枚毛布が寝具ト申給候サレタ

丙 木敷ハ船モ申シテ

答 日本人ハ木額ヲ給エシテアリ、或心修磨ハツキイ、島
ノ金川時家額ヲ日本人ニ脱ガサシテ屬メ、其人船ニ着ケタ
候、櫛毛毛アリ。バツク後又ケ、着セアルシヤツ大毛、
モアツメソナチ木額ハ精セシ月仕事ガ持キマセニテ申

問 入浴、該備ハアリカニ

答 客萬次ト身体ヲ洗ル事多矣、布二疋少最初、三百

問 一度毛汎是ニ達セテアリシテ。日本人ハ石鑿ヲ奥ニ
マセナシテ、皆裸身着物ヲ洗ハリカニ

海ハハ被一付思カニテス

8005

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1. 向米国人停屢ニ付テ医療設備ハアツカ
答 医療設備全然アリマサニ。然ガ此、收容
所三層向二約三四人、停屢ガ災害大調脚
氣、未刺ナドモ此ニシテ
向米国人停屢半医看ガ層々カ
答 幸好ノ事トシテ入市カニ海軍少尉比收容
所二層半者、篇メ出来ル文、コトニシテ裏シマサ。
向便所、設備ハドクタリ。
答 四個、便所タツアシキリテ、ソノ收容所二約半
百人ニ層リマシカズ、便所ハ我々、需要ニ付シ非常
不足シタ。日本人ハ便所ヲ清潔スルタメ、消毒剤ヲ
使フマシテシ。
向、アタク運ベタノ様ナ状態ニ付テ停屢收容所長
ニ抗議ヲ申立マシカタカ
答 ハイ抗議シマシテ、結果ハアリマセリテシテ